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Record 6,542 guns intercepted at U.S. airport security in 2022



A television displays a "no guns" sign at the Transportation Security Administration security area at the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport on Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2023, in Atlanta.

Associated Press



81 years have passed since Aruba's direct encounter with World War









Trump absent as Iowa 2024 GOP caucus train begins to roll

By THOMAS BEAUMONT **Associated Press**

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) Nikki Halev is swinaina through lowa this week fresh off announcing her presidential campaign. Her fellow South Carolinian Republican, Sen. Tim Scott, will also be here as he decides his political future. And former Vice President Mike Pence was just in the state courting influential evangelical Christian activists.

After a slow start, Republican presidential prospects are streaming into the leadoff presidential caucus state. Notably absent from the lineup, at least for now, is former President Donald Trump.

Few of the White House hopefuls face the lofty expectations in Iowa that Trump does. He finished a competitive second to devout social conservative Ted Cruz in 2016, and went on to carry the state twice,

by healthy margins, as the presidential Republican nominee in the 2016 and 2020 elections.

"It is genuinely impossible for this guy to try to manage these expectations," said Luke Martz, a veteran Iowa Republican strategist who helped lead Mitt Romney's 2012 Iowa caucus campaign. "They are enormous. They are self-made. I don't see how anyone who is saying 'I'm the guy' can come in and even get



President Donald Trump arrives to speak at a campaign rally at the Knapp Center on the campus of Drake University, Jan. 30, 2020, in Des Moines, Iowa.

Associated Press

even a second-place finish."

To be sure, Trump is making moves in Iowa. On Monday, his team announced it had named a state campaign director, Marshall Moreau, who managed the 2022 campaign of Republican attorney general candidate Brenna Bird. Bird defeated Democrat Tom Miller, who had been the longest-serving attorney general in the country, first elected in 1978.

Trump has maintained an lowa political presence, with a national campaign team member, Alex Latcham, based in the state. But Trump held a kickoff rally on Jan. 28 in South Carolina, where his 2016 primary victory sealed his status as GOP frontrunner. And he squeezed in a speaking spot earlier that day at the annual state GOP meeting in New Hampshire, where he also won the first-in-thenation primary seven years ago.

Though the caucuses remain nearly a year off, they remain the first event on the calendar, and some lowa GOP activists have taken notice of Trump's absence. "I found that quite interesting," Gloria Mazza, chairwoman of the Polk County GOP, said of Trump's New

Hampshire and South Carolina stops. "Because Iowa is first in the nation, doesn't everybody come first?"

Meanwhile, others making inroads.

Though Pence is not yet a candidate, his advocacy group Advancing American Values last week launched a campaign to organize opposition to school policies like one in an eastern lowa district that has become a flashpoint among conservatives.

Pence was in Cedar Rapids on Wednesday rallying opponents of a policy by the nearby Linn-Mar Community School District that's at issue in a federal lawsuit. The school board last year enacted a measure allowing transgender students to request a gender support plan to begin socially transitioning at school without the permission of their parents.

The issue, an early focus of 2024 Republican presidential prospects, is particularly contentious among Christian conservatives, with whom Pence routinely says he identifies. And at Wednesday's event at a pizza restaurant — it had the feel of an early caucus campaign stop — Pence illustrated its traction.



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6,542 GUNS

From Front

By REBECCA SANTANA Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — The woman flying out of Philadelphia's airport last year remembered to pack snacks, prescription medicine and a cellphone in her handbag. But what was more important was what she forgot to unpack: a loaded .380-caliber handgun in a black holster.

The weapon was one of the 6,542 guns the Transportation Security Administration intercepted last year at airport checkpoints across the country. The number — roughly 18 per day — was an all-time high for guns intercepted at U.S. airports, and is sparking concern at a time when more Americans are armed.

"What we see in our checkpoints really reflects what we're seeing in society, and in society there are more people carrying firearms nowadays," TSA administrator David Pekoske said.

With the exception of pandemic-disrupted 2020, the number of weapons intercepted at airport checkpoints has climbed every year since 2010. Experts don't think this is an epidemic of would-be hijackers — nearly everyone caught claims to have forgotten they had a gun with them — but they emphasize the danger even one gun can pose in the wrong hands on a plane or at a checkpoint.

Guns have been intercepted literally from Burbank, California, to Bangor, Maine. But it tends to happen more at bigger airports in areas with laws more friendly to carrying a gun, Pekoske said. The top 10 list for gun interceptions in 2022 includes Dallas, Austin and Houston in Texas; three airports in Florida; Nashville, Tennessee; Atlanta; Phoenix; and Denver.

Pekoske isn't sure the "I forgot" excuse is always true or whether it's a natural reaction to getting caught. Regardless, he said, it's a problem that must stop.

When TSA staffers see what



Transportation Security Administration administrator (TSA) David P. Pekoske speaks during an event to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Sept. 11, 2021, in Springfield, Va.

Associated Press

they believe to be a weapon on the X-ray machine, they usually stop the belt so the bag stays inside the machine and the passenger can't get to it. Then they call in local police.

Repercussions vary depending on local and state laws. The person may be arrested and have the gun confiscated. But sometimes they're allowed to give the gun to a companion not flying with them and continue on their way. Unloaded guns can also be placed in checked bags assuming they follow proper procedures. The woman in Philadelphia saw her gun confiscated and was slated to be fined.

Those federal fines are the TSA's tool to punish those who bring a gun to a checkpoint. Last year TSA raised the maximum fine to \$14,950 as a deterrent. Passengers also lose their PreCheck status — it allows them to bypass some types of screening — for five years. It used to be three years, but about a year ago the agency increased the time and changed the rules. Passengers may also miss their flight as well as lose their gun. If federal officials can prove the person intended to bring the gun past the checkpoint into what's called the airport's sterile area, it's a federal

offense.

Retired TSA official Keith Jeffries said gun interceptions can also slow other passengers in line.

"It's disruptive no matter what," Jeffries said. "It's a dangerous, prohibited item and, let's face it, you should know where your gun is at, for crying out loud."

Experts and officials say the rise in gun interceptions simply reflects that more Americans are carrying guns.

The National Shooting Sports Foundation, an industry trade group, tracks FBI data about background checks completed for a firearm sale. The numbers were a little over 7 million in 2000 and about 16.4 million last year. They went even higher during the coronavirus pandemic.

For the TSA officers searching for prohibited items, it can be jarring.

In Atlanta, Janecia Howard was monitoring the X-ray machine when she realized she was looking at a gun in a passenger's laptop bag. She immediately flagged it as a "high-threat" item and police were notified.

Howard said it felt like her heart dropped, and she was worried the passenger might try to get the gun. It turns out the passenger was a very apologetic businessman who said he

simply forgot. Howard says she understands travel can be stressful but that people have to take care when they're getting ready for a flight. Atlanta's airport, one of the world's busiest with roughly 85,000 people going through checkpoints on a busy day, had the most guns intercepted in 2022 — 448 — but that number was actually lower than the year before. Robert Spinden, the TSA's top official in Atlanta, says the agency and the airport made a big effort in 2021 to try to address the large number of guns being intercepted at checkpoints.

An incident in November 2021 reinforced the need for their efforts. A TSA officer noticed a suspected gun in a passenger's bag. When the officer opened the suitcase the man reached for the gun, and it went off. People ran for the exits, and the airport was shut down for 2 1/2 hours, the airport's general manager Balram Bheodari said during a congressional hearing last year.

Officials put in new signage to catch the attention of gun owners. A hologram over a checkpoint shows the image of a revolving blue gun with a red circle over the gun with a line through it. Numerous 70-inch television screens flash

rotating messages that guns are not allowed.

"There's signage all over the airport. There is announcements, holograms, TVs. There's quite a bit of information that is sort of flashing before your eyes to just try to remind you as a last ditch effort that if you do own a firearm, do you know where it's at?" Spinden said.

Miami's airport also worked to get gunowners' attention. The airport's director told Congress last year that after setting a gun interception record in 2021 they installed high-visibility signage and worked with airlines to warn passengers. He said the number of firearms intercepted declined sharply.

Pekoske said signage is only part of the solution. Travelers face a barrage of signs or announcements already and don't always pay attention. He also supports gradually raising penalties to grab people's attention. But Aidan Johnston, from the gun advocacy group Gun Owners of America, said he'd like to see the fines lessened, saying they're not a deterrent. While he'd like to see more education for new gun owners, he also doesn't think of this as a "major heinous crime."

"These are not bad people that are in dire need of punishment," he said. "These are people who made a mistake."

Officials believe they're catching the vast majority, but with 730 million passengers screened last year even a miniscule percentage getting through is a concern.

Last month, musician Cliff Waddell was traveling from Nashville, Tennessee, to Raleigh, North Carolina, when he was stopped at the checkpoint. A TSA officer had seen a gun in his bag. Waddell was so shocked he initially said it couldn't be his because he'd just flown the day before with the same bag. It turned out the gun had been in his bag but missed at the screening. TSA acknowledged the miss, and Pekoske says they're investigating.



Arrest made in killing of Catholic bishop in California

By OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ and **DAMIAN DOVARGANES Associated Press**

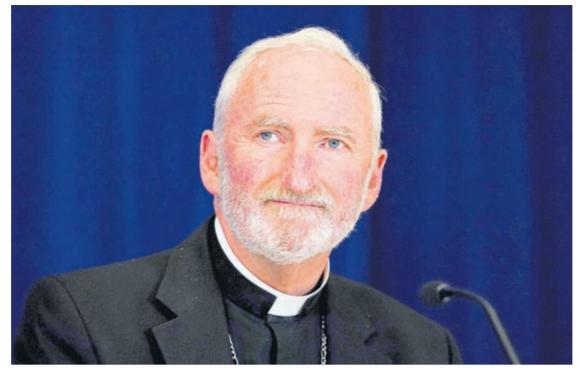
LOS ANGELES (AP) — A SUSpect has been arrested in the killing of a Catholic bishop who was fatally shot over the weekend in Southern California in a crime that shocked the Los Angeles religious and immigrant communities, authorities said Monday.

The person was arrested in the killing of Auxiliary Bishop David O'Connell, who was found in his home with a gunshot wound and declared dead at the scene, Los Angeles Sheriff's Deputy Lizette Falcon said.

Sheriff Robert Luna was expected to provide details at a news conference at 3 p.m. Pacific time.

O'Connell, 69, was killed just blocks from the St. John Vianney Catholic Church, part of his archdiocese, in Hacienda Heights, an unincorporated community about 20 miles (30 kilometers) east of downtown Los Angeles.

O'Connell was found around 1 p.m. Saturday with a gunshot wound. Sheriff's deputies were called to the area for a report of a medical emergency. Authorities



Bishop David O'Connell, of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, attends a news conference at the Fall General Assembly meeting of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, on Nov. 17, 2021, in Baltimore.

Associated Press

have not said whether the bishop was targeted or if his religion might have been a factor.

O'Connell had been a priest for 45 years and was a native of Ireland, according to Angelus News, the news outlet of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, the nation's largest. In 2015, Pope Francis named him one of several auxiliary bishops of the archdiocese.

O'Connell worked in South Los Angeles for years and focused on gang intervention, Angelus News reported. He later sought to broker peace between residents and law enforcement following the violent 1992 uprising after a jury acquitted four white LA police officers in the beating of Rodney King, a Black

Nearly two decades lat-

er, O'Connell brought the San Gabriel Valley community together to rebuild a mission there destroyed an arson attack. In recent years he also spearheaded Catholic efforts in the region to work with immigrant children and families from Central America.

called Sheriff Luna O'Connell a peacemaker and offered the agency's condolences.

"He was a peacemaker and had a passion serving those in need while improving our community," Sheriff Robert Luna said on Twitter. Neighbors and parishioners left flowers and candles and prayed the rosary next to police tape in Hacienda Heights on Sunday.

Gabriela Gil, who first met O'Connell when she was pregnant with her youngest child, was among those who prayed outside O'Connell's home.

"I've never ever felt more understood by anyone in this world," she said.

The Diocese of Cork and Ross in Ireland, where O'Connell was born, was shocked by the priest's death. Bishop Fintan Gavin said in a statement that O'Connell "has always maintained his connection with family and friends in Cork" through frequent visits back to Ireland.

The violence was the latest to rock religious leaders in Los Angeles. Two Jewish men were shot and wounded last week by a gunman who authorities said had targeted them for their faith. Suspect Jaime Tran has been charged with federal hate crimes.



James O'Keefe, President of Project Veritas Action, waits to be introduced during a news conference at the National Press Club on Sept. 1, 2015, in Washington.

Associated Press

James O'Keefe said in a speech posted online Monday that he has been removed as the right-wing group's leader.

In remarks that appeared to have been made at a Project Veritas' office, for using hidden cameras and wiped away tears dur-

MAMARONECK, N.Y. (AP) O'Keefe said the board - Project Veritas founder had stripped him of all decision-making. The move comes after the board reportedly put him on leave from his role as chairman amid complaints about his treatment of staff at the organization, which is known

Project Veritas founder James O'Keefe out at right-wing org

and hiding identities to try to ensnare journalists in embarrassing conversations and to reveal supposed lib-

"So currently, I have no job at Project Veritas," O'Keefe said in the video. "I have no position here based upon what the board has done. So I'm announcing to you all that today on President's Day, I'm packing up my personal belongings."

Messages seeking com- feedback describing real ment were left with management concerns O'Keefe, the group's executive director, and attorneys for Project Veritas and O'Keefe, as well as other officials with the organization, which is based in Mamaroneck, New York.

O'Keefe, who choked up

ing his remarks, said several times that the nearly 45-minute speech was for staff internally, but it was posted on the Vimeo plat-

The announcement comes after the group's executive director and several board members put out a statement last week saying that "a number of our staff members provided leadership with some verbal regarding the treatment of people and our internal processes."

Project Veritas, which identifies itself as a news organization, is best known for its hidden camera stings that have embarrassed news outlets, labor organizations

and Democratic politicians. O'Keefe founded the nonprofit group 13 years ago, and its most recent IRS filings provided to charity regulators in Florida show it brought in more than \$20 million in revenue in 2021.

Last year, two Florida residents pleaded guilty to selling a diary and other items from President Joe Biden's daughter to Project Veritas for \$40,000, prosecutors said. As part of its investigation, the FBI searched the group's New York offices and the homes of some employees in 2021.

Neither Project Veritas nor any staffers have been charged with a crime, and the group has said its activities were protected by the First Amendment.



3 dead, more than 200 hurt as new quake hits Turkey, Syria

BV SUZAN FRASER Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — A new 6.4 magnitude earthquake on Monday killed three people and injured more than 200 in parts of Turkey laid waste two weeks ago by a massive quake that killed tens of thousands, authorities said. More buildings collapsed, trapping some people, while scores of injuries were recorded in neighboring Syria too.

Monday's earthquake was centered in the town of Defne, in Turkey's Hatay province, one the worst-hit regions in the magnitude 7.8 quake that struck on Feb. 6. It was felt in Syria, Jordan, Cyprus, Israel and as far away as Egypt, and followed by a second, magnitude 5.8 temblor.

Turkish Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu said three people were killed and 213 injured. Search and rescue efforts were underway in three collapsed buildings where six people were believed trapped.

In Hatay, police rescued one person trapped inside a three-story building and were trying to reach three others inside, HaberTurk television reported.

It said those trapped included movers helping people shift furniture and other belongings from the building that was dam-

aged in the massive quake. Syria's state news agency, SANA, reported that six people were injured in Aleppo by falling debris.

The White Helmets, northwest Syria's civil defense organization, reported more than 130 injuries, most of them non-life threatening, including fractures and cases of people fainting from fear, while a number of buildings in areas already damaged by the quake collapsed.

The Feb. 6 quake killed nearly 45,000 people in both countries — the vast majority of them in Turkey, where more than a million and a half people are in temporary shelters. Turkish authorities have recorded more than 6,000 aftershocks since.

HaberTurk journalists reporting from Hatay said they were jolted violently by Monday's quake and held onto to each other to avoid falling.

In the Turkish city of Adana, eyewitness Alejandro Malaver said people left homes for the streets, carrying blankets into their cars. Malaver said everyone is really scared and "no one wants to get back into their houses."

Salhaoglullari, Mehmet from a village near Samandag, said he was eating at a restaurant when the building began to shake.



A boy is taken to an ambulance after being injured in the latest earthquake in Hatay, Turkey, Monday, Feb. 20, 2023.

Associated Press

"We all threw ourselves outside and we continued to shake outside," he said.

In the Syrian city of Idlib, frightened residents were preparing to sleep in parks and other public places, while fuel lines formed at gas stations as people attempted to get as far as possible from any buildings that might collapse.

The Syrian American Medical Society, which runs hospitals in northern Syria, said it had treated a number of patients — including a 7-year-old boy — who suffered heart attacks brought on by fear following the new quake.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan visited Hatay earlier on Monday, and said his government would begin constructing close to 200,000 new homes in the quake-devastated region as early as next month.

Erdogan said the new buildings will be no taller than three or four stories, built on firmer ground and to higher standards and in consultation with "geophysics, geotechnical, geology and seismology professors" and other experts.

The Turkish leader said destroyed cultural monuments would be rebuilt in accordance with their "historic and cultural texture." Erdogan said around 1.6 million people are currently being housed in temporary

The Turkish disaster management agency AFAD on Monday raised the number of confirmed fatalities from the Feb. 6 earthquake in Turkey to 41,156. That increased the overall death toll in both Turkey and Syria to 44,844.

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Egypt unveils renovated wing of oldest museum, new papyrus



A section of the 16-meter long papyrus named Waziri-1 Papyrus containing inscriptions from the Book of the Dead dating back to 50 BC, is displayed at the Egyptian museum in Cairo, Egypt, Monday, Feb. 20, 2023.

Associated Press

istry of tourism and antiqui-

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's min-ties unveiled a renovated wing of its oldest museum Monday, home to a 16-meter-long scroll unearthed last year.

The refurbishment marks the first stage of broader renovations for the 120-year-old salmon-colored palatial complex sin downtown Cairo opposite the capital's famed Tahrir Square.

Waziry Papyrus, the centerpiece of Monday's unveiling, contains around 113 spells from the Book of the Dead. The museum also has added modern glass protection and new interior lighting.

The opening ceremony of the upgraded wing was led by Egypt's Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Ahmed Eissa.

shelters.

For well over a decade, Egypt has been building a state-of-the-art museum near the pyramids which is set to house tens of thousands of ancient artefacts. The Grand Egyptian Museum has so far cost over \$1 billion and its opening date has been repeatedly delayed.

Egypt often publicly touts ancient discoveries to attract more tourists, a major source of foreign currency for the cash-strapped North African country. The sector suffered a long downturn after the political turmoil and violence that followed a 2011 uprisina.



10:00 - 4:00 pmNO RESERVATION **NECESARY FOR TOURS**



Brazil deluge kills 36; search continues for dozens missing

By TATIANA POLLASTRI and **ELÉONORE HUGHES Associated Press**

SAO SEBASTIAO, Brazil (AP) — Hundreds of rescuers searched Monday for survivors of landslides and flooding that killed at least 36 people along the coast of Brazil's southern state of Sao Paulo following a huge weekend downpour.

Worst hit was the city of Sao Sebastiao, where at least 35 were dead. In neighboring Ubatuba a 7-year-old girl was killed. The disaster, in an area famous for beaches flanked by mountains, prompted cancellations in many cities of the Carnival festivities now in full swing elsewhere in the country.

Gov. Tarcisio de Freitas told television network Globo that another 40 people were missing. Nearly 800 people were homeless and 1,730 people have been displaced, his state government said in a statement.

Television footage showed flooded homes with only their roofs visible. Residents used small boats to carry items and people to elevated positions.

A woman who gave only her first name, Mailsa, said she and her husband, daughter and grandson only barely escaped when a landslide destroyed her house in the Juquehy municipality of Sao Sebastiao. The house was partially submerged, parts of it fell



Rescue workers search for survivors after flooding triggered deadly landslides near Juquehy beach in Sao Sebastiao, Brazil, Monday, Feb. 20, 2023.

Associated Press

away and the rest was left precariously perched on the edge of a hill.

"It was very quick. Either you run or you die," she said. "It's not possible to take anything, only your life, which is the most important thing."

Members of the armed forces joined the search and rescue efforts, aggravated by poor access to many areas after landslides blocked the snaking roads in the region's highlands and floods washed away chunks of pavement in low-lying and oceanfront areas.

"Our rescue teams are not managing to get to several locations. It is a chaotic situation," Sao Sebastiao Mayor Felipe Augusto said on social media late Sunday night.

Augusto said about 50 houses collapsed in the city due to the landslides, and he posted several videos of destruction and search efforts, including one of a baby being rescued by locals lined up on a flooded street. The highway connecting Rio de Janeiro state with Sao Paulo's port city of Santos was blocked by landslides and floodwaters. Gov. de Freitas said the damage was so extensive, the highway may no longer exist. Precipitation in Sao Sebastiao had surpassed 600 millimeters (23.6 inches) during a 24-hour period over the weekend, among the largest such downpours ever in such a short period in Brazil. Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva visited the region on Monday. He observed the damage in Sao Sebastiao from a helicopter and met with Gov. de Freitas at Sao Sebastiao's theatre, where search operations were being coordinated.

Lula called for people living in the hillside areas to be relocated to safer regions. "Every now and then nature plays a surprise on us, but also many times we defy nature," Lula said in remarks to reporters in Sao Sebastiao.

De Freitas declared a state of emergency for the hardest-hit cities, including Sao Sebastiao, Ubatuba, Ilhabela and Bertioga, which enables expedited allocation of funds for relief. He said 7 million reais (\$1.35 million) already had been released. On Monday, the governor also declared three days of official mourning throughout the state of Sao Paulo.

The heavy rain affected water, electricity and phone services, according to a statement from the state government, which posted on Twitter a video showing 30,000 liters of water being transported to Sao Sebastiao. Hygiene kits, blankets, sleeping bags, mattresses and medical supplies have also been sent.

The Minister of Integration and Regional Development Waldez Góes said on Twitter that experts already were looking into reconstruction plans. "In the coming days, we will work on the reconstruction of bridges, public buildings, housing units and all the public infrastructure affected," Góes said.

The affected area, on the northern coast of Sao Paulo state, is a frequent Carnival destination for wealthy tourists who prefer to stay away from massive street parties in big cities.



A view of the West Bank Jewish settlement of Eli, Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2023.

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel tration it will rein in the aphas told the Biden adminis- proval of new West Bank

Israel promises not to approve additional West Bank outposts

settlement outposts, the prime minister's office said Monday, a day after a potential diplomatic crisis was averted at the United Nations over Israeli-Palestinian tensions.

Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel would not greenlight any new wildcat settlements in the West Bank beyond nine such outposts built without authorization that it approved retroactively earlier this month. The statement,

however, made no mention of the thousands of additional settlement homes in existing settlements officials say are to be soon ap-

A contentious U.N. Security The office of Israeli Prime Council resolution pushed by the Palestinians and their supporters slated for Monday would have condemned Israel for settlement expansion and demanded a halt to future activity. According to muladministration managed Monday.

to forestall the vote by convincing both Israel and the Palestinians to agree in principle to a six-month freeze in any unilateral action they might take.

"Israel notified the U.S. that in the coming months it will not authorize new settlements beyond the nine that have already been approved," Netanyahu's office said.

The Security Council unanimously approved the tiple diplomats, the Biden watered-down statement





The Traimerdia Center in Oranjestad held their carnaval celebrations

(Oranjestad)—On February 16th, the Traimerdia Center in Oranjestad held their carnaval celebrations for their kids at Prinses Amalia Elementary School. The children dazzled in their carnaval costumes and enjoyed an afternoon filled with carnaval ambience.

Our reporter sat down with Ms. Kathy Farro, leader of Traimerdia Center Oranjestad and in charge of group 7. She explained that the celebration was organized by the entire Traimerdia Oranjestad team and that around 100 of their children enjoyed the festivities.

the children, so that they could enjoy carnaval up close. There were several TBS brass band presentations, and they enjoyed music from different carnaval singers like Soca Monarch, King Casper, Rey di Tumberito, King Carl and

"Our kids experienced what other kids their age also experience in carnaval," she stated.

The Traimerdia Center in Oranjestad also gave TBS a certificate to show the organization's appreciation for their support: "We are a small group and we sometimes we don't have the budget for a big celebration like this, but we also want to acknowledge This was a plan created for them for giving something back to the kids, to motivate them to participate in carnaval," Farro finalized.

















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ORANJESTAD — One thing is for certain: Chef Scott Scheuerman and his team are famous for getting people hooked, just like the fish on your plate. You will get the tasteof homefused with Caribbean while dining in elegance. Scheuermanwill tell how Aqua Grill established its name since opening in 2002, and why it reaped accolades from such prestigious travel publications as Fodor's, who says, "This hip restaurant is heaven on earth for seafood lovers, who will find fresh fish galore..." Now is your chance to taste Aqua Grill's NEW seasonal menu and create a lifetime culinary memory.

`A Scheuer thing'

Secretly, we all know that the success of a restaurant begins in the kitchen. That is where the chef creates his magic and for Aqua Grill the culinary team has won an assortment of awards for their continuous delivery of `haute-cuisine del mar.' Classic seafood is mingled with contemporary ideas resulting in surprising dishes that soon made the restaurant a must-dine, confirmed by established travel media specialists like Fodor's and Frommer's.

American-born Scheuerman, executive chef of Aqua Grill, is thrilled about 'his restaurant'. "We started out as a New England style seafood restaurant, patterned after Boston style. But we quickly blended into some Caribbean, local flair... if you will. We do still offer the traditional New England dishes like whole Maine lobster, northern seafood plates like the salmon, tuna and swordfish. We buy also from the local fisherman to offer Caribbean dishes like snapper and grouper which are number one sellers in our restaurant being the most prevalent local fishes. Catcheslike wahoo, mahimahi and brasil are welcome too, anything that comes out of the water we embrace."

Fresh import from Boston

Aqua Grill flies in their own shipments on a weekly basis mostly from Boston because the price quality balance is the best, says the chef. "We are unique in this. Number one priority is buying fresh, we mean not frozen. Our original concept is New England seafood and we stick to that concept. They have a wonderful assortment of oysters and lobsters as well." Aqua Grill also offers international fusion type of menu items; actually all you wish for is there. A very balanced menu awaits you. "And we have options for meat lovers and vegetarians/vegans too. We, however, do not mix it up too much because we believe we do not want to lose our identity as a seafood restaurant," Scheuerman adds.

Sublime menu

Now is the time to indulge in Aqua Grill's dinner experience. The established restaurant offers a sensational menu. We present



to you a Raw Bar with among others fresh Oysters on the half Shell, Littleneck Clams, Peruvian Ceviche and Lobster Salad. Steamed Dumplings and Prawns or Steamed Mussels seduce you from the open view kitchen.

After that continue your gastronomic trip to heaven with the house specialties like Main Lobster, steamed or broiled or maybe you crave for the best Alaska King Crab Legs you have ever tasted?

You haven't reached your destination yet because there are more main course options to blow you away: Seared Chilean Sea Bass, Cioppino or Blackened Tuba are just some to mention.

Take a pick out of Aqua Grill's delicious desserts to finally conclude yes, this beats it all. We will be back for more.

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Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from Scott selby.

He wrote to us saying; "Aruba to me is relaxation, safety, weather, new friends and good times!"

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers!



81 years have passed since Aruba's direct encounter with World War 2

(Oranjestad)—On February 16th, the Aruba National Archive organization commemorated through social media the 81st anniversary since Aruba was directly confronted with the dangers of World War 2 when an attack was executed on the island.

In a publication online, the Aruba National Archive organization announced that they have interesting information on the website https://coleccion.aw/guera about an incident related to the torpedo attack on the Eagle Beach Pier on February 16th, 1942. The torpedo was a U-156 from Arkansas. This artifact was inspected by the Dutch military, along with Captain Robert Bruskin from the U.S. Unfortunately, 4 soldiers were killed when the torpedo exploded during an attempt at disarming the weapon.

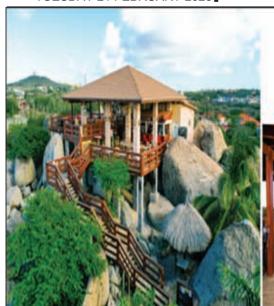
The archives also contain different publications about Segundo Jorge Adelbero "Boy" Ecury, who was an Aruban member of the Dutch resistance against Nazi Germany during the war. Ecury, along with his best friend Luis de Lannoy and Delficio Navarro, communicated through letters in Papiamento. They also carried out attacks on German bomb trucks and derailed trains among other things they did in The Hague. At the young age of 22, Ecury gave his life in the fight for our freedom.

Historian Mr. Dufi Kock also shared his knowledge on the Aruban history during the war, where he shared that on May 10th, 1940, German forces invaded The Netherlands. That same night, Captain Ferninand Schmidt sank his boat E.S. Antilla in the area of Malmok as to not return this to the Dutch military.

This and other interesting information on WW2 is available on the Aruba National Archive website for the public.







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Why You Should Not Miss Aruba's Free City Center Street Car Tour

ORANJESTAD - Aruba's City Center Street Car - or as we call it in Dutch; "Tram van Oranjestad' - is a single track tram line in Oranjestad, the capital city of Aruba. It was inaugurated on 22 December 2012, being the first and so far the only passenger rail service on Aruba and the rest of the Dutch Caribbean. There are two trolleys, a single-deck one with 42 seats and a double-decker with 64 seats. The line was inspired by the popular battery-powered streetcar operation at the Grove in Los Angeles, USA. Aruba's streetcars are powered by hydrogen fuel cells, which are charged by the island's year-round trade winds.

Caya Betico Croes, mostly referred to as our "main street" has been developed into a pollution-free pedestrian mall. The double-decker offers you a 360 degree view of the down town area with a picture perfect scenery of the island's clear blue skies. Who would not enjoy a ride on this beautiful and naturally air-conditioned vehicle? The tour consists of a total of 9 stops approximately 200 meters apart from each other; all stops are clearly marked.





The tram will bring you close to different museums, historical plazas, monuments, the Protestant church, Aruba's high- end mall, retail shops, and a variety of local and international cuisine restaurants. The "I love Aruba" trademark also belongs to that list. The third

stop on the route is close to a 5-minute walk to the famous Renaissance Marina showcasing luxurious yachts and Aruba's blue waters.

The "Tram van Oranjestad" starts from a balloon loop near the Port of Call and serves the downtown area and ends at Plaza Nicky. The first ride starts at 10:00 am sharp with intervals of 25minutes. The last trolley departs from the cruise port at 5:00 pm. Don't miss this tour of the beautiful Aruba's City Center - it is free for all!





Heart-Centered Leadership Foundation helps young adults make their dreams come true

(Oranjestad)—The Heart-Centered Leadership Foundation (HCLF) promotes opportunities for young adults between 18 and 29 years old to start a training journey as a volunteer, where they from part of the foundation during its activities for teenagers of 13 to 17 years of age.

These volunteers that do brave work with HCLF are called Heart-Centered Impact

Coaches (HCIC) and they contribute in the organization's goal to empower and inspire young people. A HCIC is able to communicate, motivate and provide support for young people on a social and academic level during workshops, seminars and other HCLF activities. This opportunity allows young adults to form connections and make a positive impact in someone's life. Personal and professional development is crucial for a young adult to get to know their skills and purpose that will further guide them in the future.

Meet fellow HCLF volunteer, Alyeska Lake, better known by her nickname "Aly". She is a 26-year-old young woman raised in San Nicolas, and who now lives in The Netherlands, where she just completed her Masters in Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychologist at Leiden University. Alyeska shared her experience as a Heart-Centered Impact Coach, which helped her become the version of herself she always dreamed of.

How was your experience as a volunteer at HCLF?

"I always enjoyed my time with HCLF and I have no regrets. My favorite memory at HCLF is the sense of belonging I got and the family that I made from the moment I started doing voluntary work. I connected deeply with other volunteers and members of staff during various activities and social moments





that are designed for the development of both volunteers and staff. I always felt proud after talking to the teens during school activities. A moment that stood out for me was when I assisted as a group leader during the Impact Cafés at John Wesley High school, Filomena College Mavo and Abraham de Veer High school. This was when we discussed the topic of mental health. The sessions were very interactive and the teens could feel comfortable to share their thoughts on the matter and other related points about mental health.

How did volunteering at **HCLF** impact your personal and professional life?

"I discovered that I had more skills that I initially thought. With the support from HCLF, I had the opportunity to develop more skills and talents, and also put these in practice."

"I see myself as a dreamer with big ambitions. To be able to have the skills to visualize these dreams is one of my biggest goals, and this is thanks to HCLF. Getting to know myself better really helped my mentality and the direction that I want to go in life—personally and professionally. I know exactly who I am, who I want to be, where I want to go, what I want to do and with whom. I believe I already had this in me, but it was through the challenges that HCLF gave me that I was able to realize my full potential and take action."

What is the most valuable part of volunteering HCLF?

"The most valuable part is that HCLF recognizes you for who you are, not for what you show them. They see you as a whole person and your potential."

Would you recommend other young adults to volunteer at HCLF?

"If you want to be a part of a group that does meaningful work in the lives of teens from San Nicolas, and at the same time want to make significant impact in your own life, join the Heart-Centered Leadership Foundation as a volunteer."

Did Alyeska's experience motivate vou to become a Heart-Centered Impact Coach? If you are between



18 and 29 years old, like life, please contact HCLF to give back to the community and are interested in further developing your personal and professional

at 5841211 (Whatsapp) or send an e-mail at holfaruba@gmail.com.





BONER MINES ASTRO IDAHO

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DAR LEADING

RARE DYER

Saturday's Answer

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CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

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AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different,

2-21 CRYPTOQUOTE

LWAAWGBZS

NIWSWUWG OZE CZ K DIXSV ... KBT OZEGBWPA IZN OZE NZEPC KRD NWGW KPP DIW NZGPC DIZOKB PZZTXSV KD OZE.

Saturday's Cryptoquote: BEFORE YOU MARRY A PERSON, YOU SHOULD FIRST MAKE THEM USE A COMPUTER WITH SLOW INTERNET TO SEE WHO THEY REALLY ARE. — WILL FERRELL

Make your credit cards less vulnerable to fraud



undated file photo provided by NerdWallet shows Liz Weston, a columnist for personal finance website NerdWallet.com.

Associated Press

By LIZ WESTON of NerdWallet

Last year, one of my family's credit cards was used to rack up hundreds of dollars in bogus charges at Apple.com. Another card was compromised four times in a row, as thieves repeatedly charged merchandise and Uber rides.

We ultimately got our money back, but repeated credit card fraud can be frustrating and disheartenina. Dealina with the aftermath taught me to prize security over convenience, and to change some bad habits that made me an easier target.

THE CLOCK IS TICKING ON **CREDIT CARD FRAUD**

Under the Fair Credit Billing Act, consumers have 60 days after bogus charges show up on a statement to report them to the credit card issuer to avoid most liability, says attorney Amy Loftsgordon, legal editor at Nolo, a self-help legal site. (The law limits a consumer's liability to \$50 per series of unauthorized uses, but most issuers waive that, Loftsgordon says.)

So my heart sank when I realized that the fraud on our

Apple.com account had started at least six months earlier. I'd noticed that the Apple.com charges had been ticking up, but assumed my husband was buying more audiobooks and my daughter was downloading more games. I'd grouse at them occasionally, they would proclaim innocence and the charges would continue. Finally, the thief went too far and charged over \$300 in a single month. I contacted Apple and discovered our card had been used to purchase dating apps and virtual phone numbers, which were likely

were sent to an email address I didn't recognize. A NEW CARD DIDN'T STOP THE FRAUD

being used to scam other

people. The electronic re-

ceipts for these purchases

The kicker: The thief was using a credit card number that had already been reported as compromised. Normally, credit card issuers will deny new charges on a compromised number. But according to the card issuer, the thief started their crime spree during the few days that my replacement card was in the mail. Since we already made regular purchases at Apple.com, the card issuer assumed the charges using the old card were legit and allowed them to go through "as a courtesy" month after month. (I was assured that this sequence of events "is extremely rare and hardly ever happens.") An Apple customer service representative deleted the most recent month's charges and the issuer removed the rest — even those well past the 60-day mark.

My takeaways: Sites where

you make multiple purchases each month need to be monitored carefully for bogus transactions. Compare what your credit card statement says you've charged with your purchase history on the site. You may have to search online for how to find that history; Apple certainly doesn't make it easy or intuitive to find your charges. And if you find fraud, report it — even if it's beyond the 60-day deadline.

Aruba Divi Phoenix

Palm Beach 1 BR WK # 8,9,10 room # 931 Studio WK # 8,9 room # 932 32 weeks remain on each Price: studio \$ 10 K Price: 1 BR \$ 15 K Call:011-297-630-1307 johnnypaesch@gmail.com

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Week 13/Unit 1509 (14k);

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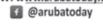
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NBA on All-Star break, but no easy answers to rest problem

By TIM REYNOLDS **AP Basketball Writer**

Golden State coach Steve Kerr wants a shorter NBA season. Milwaukee All-Star Giannis Antetokounmpo does not. NBA Commissioner Adam Silver isn't sure what the right answer is.

Such is the conundrum with the NBA's ongoing battle with load management - often the fancy way of saying resting — and finding ways to optimize player health, performance and availability. While there is a consensus that the league has problems, there is no consensus on how to solve those problems.

Over the last week, The Associated Press asked a cross section of 48 players, coaches, owners and executives if the NBA should abandon its 82-game, 170day blueprint of a regular season for something with either fewer games or more days in the season to allow for more rest.

The results were as muddled as the issue itself: 40% said they would simply go along with whatever the league decides is best, 35% said they don't want the current format changed, and the remaining 25% wants changes.

How fans will be affected is one concern. Money is another.

"I think if you want to get the best player availability, shortening the season may be in the best interest of everybody involved," Denver coach Michael Malone said. "But that's also a lot of money being lost — TV games, money. Let's not forget: This is a business."

With the All-Star Weekend in the books and regularseason play resuming Thursday, there are still 19 players with a chance to play in 82 games this season. There were only five who did it last season, 11 who played every game in a 72-game 2020-21 season and 14 who played all possible games in the COVID-19-interrupted 2019-20 season.

common for players to play every game, or at least almost every game. A decade ago, in 2012-

makina 82 appearances. A decade before that, it was 46. John Stockton played in 82 games 16 times for

23, there were 28 players to come to one game. And that might be the game they come to and you're sitting out. I take pride in trying to play every game be-

pecting to see someone play and they don't get to see that person play," Kerr said. "It's a brutal part of the business. That's why I'm



Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo lies by the basket after injuring his right wrist during the first half of the team's NBA basketball game against the Chicago Bulls on Thursday, Feb. 16, 2023, in Chicago.

Associated Press

Utah and missed 22 games cause I don't know, it might in 19 seasons; A.C. Green played 82 games 14 times in his career. Among players currently active, nobody has logged more than five 82-game seasons. Antetokounmpo doesn't want change: "I think 82 games is perfect," he said. Minnesota guard Anthony Edwards said seeing players sometimes take a game to rest is the thing he dislikes most about the league. His rationale: Somebody might have bought a ticket to just that one game, and feelings can be hurt if the player they want to see most takes the night off.

"Just play, man. If you're 80%, you've got to play," It used to not be so un- said Edwards, 21, a firsttime All-Star. "I don't like all the sitting, missing games and stuff. These people might have enough money

be one fan that has never seen me play, and I'm trying to play."

Kerr is a proponent of a 72-game season, and has said so this year after some games where the reigning champion Warriors have aiven their stars — the Stephen Curry, Klay Thompson, Draymond Green types — a night off because the team feels it was in the best interest of their health.

He also knows a 72-aame season would come with a price. Literally, a big price. Shaving 12% of games from the schedule would, in theory, shave 12% of revenue opportunities. And while it's not likely owners would embrace making less money, players probably wouldn't go for that, either.

"I feel terrible for fans who buy tickets who are exgoing to continue to advocate for 72-game seasons. And I know that means less revenue, but at some point, I think there just needs to be an awareness from everybody involved."

At least one other coach is listening to Kerr, loud and

"I do think in an ideal world that the season would be shorter," Milwaukee's Mike Budenholzer said. would space the games out, give the players more recovery time, hopefully more health. And I think one of the big points of emphasis is for the fans, more player availability. But it's a complicated equation."

One potential tweak that some prefer is the idea of not squeezing 82 games into 170 days, which basically means a game every other day. Building even

another week into the schedule could allow for more multiday breaks.

The NFL and NHL have bye weeks. Minnesota coach Chris Finch wonders if the NBA should do the same.

"I think what we need to do as a league is remove all the obstacles for guys not playing," Finch said. "Back-to-backs seem to be a big one. They've done a really good job over the last years of trying to limit back-to-backs, make them more intelligent if you will. It doesn't seem to me that we're that far off of being able to eliminate them altogether, whether that's fewer games or, heck, the season's so long right now anyway, what's another week or two?"

The NBA and the National Basketball Players Association are currently in talks on a new collective bargaining agreement, with both sides hopeful that it'll get done by next month which hardly guarantees anything, but it's a reason for optimism.

There is a strong chance that an in-season tournament, something Silver has wanted for years, could be part of the NBA calendar as early as next season. But there is no talk of that changing the format for the season; teams have been told that, if the tournament is added, they'll get an 80-game schedule this summer with two more games — those matchups based on how they fare in the opening portion of the tournament — to be added later.

"I think part of the realization these days in playing in this league is that this is a year-round pursuit now," Silver said. "I think part of injury avoidance means how players are treating their bodies year-round, how teams are interacting with players year-round, and using the best data to conclude what will allow players to stay healthy and on the floor as long as possible.

"We think we can do a better job," he added, "but we don't have a specific solution yet."



Major league teams searching for advantages with new rules

By JAY COHEN
AP Baseball Writer

PHOENIX (AP) — It's a brand new day in the major leagues — potentially an even brighter one for base-stealers like Trea Turner and Ronald Acuña Jr., and most definitely a change of pace for veteran aces like Gerrit Cole or Yu Darvish.

The bases are bigger, and the pickoff rules are different. The pitch clock has arrived, and infield shifts are gone.

Sorry, Shohei Ohtani, you took too long to throw that pitch. Bryce Harper, get back in the batter's box. Xander Bogaerts, can't stand there when Mookie Betts is hitting.

Only one thing is certain to stay the same: Everyone will try to find an edge, aiming to take advantage of baseball's dramatic alterations.

"I think the one thing we know about our industry is to the extent there's an advantage to be gained, every team is going to be doing everything possible to try to exploit that advantage to the best of its ability," said Chris Antonetti, president of baseball operations for the Cleveland Guardians.

Those are the conversations that are dominating spring training this year after Major League Baseball approved a series of changes in September in an effort to make the sport more appealing to a younger generation turned off by its lack of action and leisurely tempo.

As players reported to camps in Florida and Arizona to ramp up their preparation for the season, Commissioner Rob Manfred expressed confidence that the changes would work—after what could be an occasionally bumpy transition period.

"I think you're going to see a game that moves along with more pace," Manfred said. "I think you're going to see more balls in play. I think that you're going to look at the field and see players positioned the way that most of us

grew up seeing them positioned. And I really think that (you're) going to see a movement toward the very best form of our game."

The size of the bases has been increased to 18-inch squares from 15. The new pitch clock is 15 seconds with no runners on base and 20 seconds with runners. The increasingly frequent infield shift has been eliminated, and there is a limit of two of what MLB calls disengagements — pickoff attempts or steps off the rubber — per plate appearance.

"I think the pitch clock will be the most impactful for sure," Milwaukee Brewers manager Craig Counsell said. "I mean I'm hoping that's the one that's most impactful. I hope fans no-

tice a real improvement in the pace of the game."

The pitch clock helped reduce the average time of a nine-inning game in the minor leagues from 3 hours, 4 minutes in 2021 to 2:38 last season. A catcher is required to be in the catcher's box with nine seconds left on the clock and a hitter in the batter's box and focused on the pitcher with eight seconds remaining.

Penalties for violations will be a ball called against a pitcher and a strike called against a batter. And there almost assuredly will be some violations through the start of the season as players get used to the clock.

ers get used to the clock.
"I'm not worried about it,"
Chicago White Sox pitcher
Lance Lynn said. "The hitters are going to hate it."



The new, larger base sits next to the older, smaller base at TD Ballpark Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2023, in Dunedin, Fla.

Associated Press

Under the new rules on defensive positioning, two infielders will be required to be on either side of second and all infielders to be within the outer boundary of the infield when the pitcher is on the rubber. Infielders may not switch sides unless there is a substitution, but five-man infields will still be allowed.









Start this year's vacation with this amazing experience in the heart of Costa Linda Beach Resort.

Water's Edge Restaurant is a jewel many had the pleasure to find!

Eagle Beach – When you think of a restaurant that pleases the needs of a whole family or a large group of people with all different tastes? Think Water's Edge Restaurant. Located at the shore of Aruba's most wonderful beach, The Eagle Beach Aruba. Water's Edge Restaurant is guaranteed to serve you a fantastic magical night to remember. Whether you prefer to enjoy the view from indoors air conditioned comfort, outdoors in the soft tropical breeze or under a palapa with your toes in the sand. This spectacular restaurant offers the best ocean view sunset or sky full of stars dinner while the crispy Caribbean night wind caresses your face and plays with your hair.

From the minute you arrive there will be a great staff welcoming you with the most contagious smiles and warmth. The intense menu with a great variety of appetizers, main courses and delicious desserts will not disappoint. Seafood, Steaks and international favorites. All on one menu specially made just for you.

Culinary Voyage

Start your gastronomic journey with a scrumptious appetizer such as the Maryland Crab Cakes, maybe the Crispy Calamari or the mouthwatering creamy Garlic Tarragon Shrimp.

You can also opt for a classic French Onion Soup, a Lobster Bisque or the famously Water's Edge House Wedge, a crisp wedge of fresh romaine lettuce topped with homemade blue cheese dressing, diced tomatoes, chopped bacon, caramelized pecans and blue cheese crumbles, drizzled with balsamic reduction. This followed by the Chef's special of seafood such as Fresh salmon filet seasoned and grilled, topped with lemon cilantro butter and served with homemade mashed potatoes and fresh asparagus, a nice plate of Ahi Tuna or a succulent pasta dish like the Florentina Fettuccine Alfredo. Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of a devourable 22oz. Bone-In "Tomahawk" Rib-Eye, pan seared in garlic infused oil and finished in the oven or our juicy N.Y Strip Loin, seasoned & grilled. All our steaks options are seasoned with a blend of kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper. Served with homemade mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetables and a choice of red wine reduction, green peppercorn demi glace, mushroom sauce, or bacon blue cheese butter. For extra sides the options are delectable. Fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, mashed or baked potatoes, fries or rice and beans. Combine your personal choice with one of the most exclusive wine from the

great selection of international wines to compliment your dish. Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled kids menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free guests. To end the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness, the desserts are wild. From a piece of coconut flan, NY cheese cake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua and amaretto served with chocolate sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.

Creating memories

If you are planning a birthday dinner, here you will receive a nice bottle of champagne to take home with you to extend your experience even further whether on the beach or your own private balcony.

Live entertainment

Just about every day of the week, there is a different live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. Whether you're in a romantic mood, or more in a swinging mood, there is absolutely a night especially for you where you can combine great music with delicious cocktails mixed with concoctions. In addition, Water's Edge offers three daily Happy Hours from 12pm-1pm, 4pm-6pm and again from 9pm-10pm with all premium brands specially priced.

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Whether you join us for breakfast, lunch or dinner, Water's Edge Restaurant & Bar offers a relaxed and inspirational dining experience overlooking the beautiful Eagle Beach with spectacular ocean views. Gather with friends and family for drinks and appetizers or a night of pampering and relaxation.



Thank you to all our guests

From the bottom of our hearts, we would like to Thank all of our guests who showed us so much love and support all throughout the year, and hopefully will continue to do so in the years to come. What we are most grateful for is that we could get back to doing what we love, which is looking after our guests. So, thank you for every dinner, lunch, breakfast, every to-go order, every glass of wine, every birthday, anniversary and date-night that you spent with us this last year. To our new guests, Welcome! We hope you to see you back



"Water's Edge Restaurant is where magnificent beach views, amazing food and excellent service come together."

Water's Edge is open daily from 8am – 11pm

To reserve your table please call +297 583-8000 / ext 8106 or direct line +297 586-9494

For more information about the menus, entertainment and hours, please visit the website watersedge-aruba.com

